

2013 : 50th anniversary of Tereshkova

2013 began with our participation in the **MilanoFil** National Philatelic Exhibition where **Astrophilately** was one of the four exhibiting classes. **Nine exhibits** were competing, **four** of which were participating for the first time, with a strong commitment that led to remarkable results. **Alec Bartos's** exhibit, also awarded the "Best in Class" award, deserved the Large Gold medal. A total of five gold medals were awarded, underlining the high quality that the astrophilately collections were reaching.

Four ASITAF collections were invited to participate in the international non-competitive exhibition **AstroPhil 2013** held in **Berlin** from 12 to 14 April to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the flight of Valentina Tereshkova. This was the first astrophilately exhibition in Germany after many years, with exhibitors from Austria, Germany, Italy, Munich, Romania, the Czech Republic, Russia and Switzerland. A total of 48 non-competitive exhibits were on show, covering the entire range of typologies: from high-level astrophilately, to thematic space philately, and "open class".



*Some moments of the visit to the exhibition: on the left photo by Sergei Rodin
on the right Cavallaro, Bachmann, Föhr-Waldeck and Bussolino*

Astrophil 2013 was also the occasion for an informal meeting between the National Delegates of Astrophilately of the FIP. Almost all the European delegates were present. One of the topics debated was that of jurors..



Nine National Delegates attended the FIP informal meeting.

From left: Jürgen Esders (Germany), Walter Hopferwieser* (Austria), Umberto Cavallaro* (Italy), Beatrice Bachmann (Switzerland), Igor Rodin (Russia - President of the FIP Astrophilately Section), Julius Cacka (Czech Republic), Stefan Bruylants* (Belgium).*

In front: Alec Bartos (Romania) and Antoni Rigo* (Spain).*

(= Members of AS.IT-AF)
[photo by Torsten Gemsa]*

Also in Italy, the 50th anniversary of the historic flight of Valentina Tereskova's offered the opportunity to deal with the " Women Spacefarers".



We did this by organizing at the beginning of July a conference and a panel discussion at the Lingotto Campus of the **Turin Polytechnic**, where the speakers were all women: distinguished personalities from the Agencies, the space industry and the scientific, academic and institutional world, including Simonetta Di Pippo (ASI), Maria Antonietta Perino (Thales Alenia Space), Sabrina Corpino (Turin Polytechnic), Alba Zanini (National Institute of Nuclear Physics) and Amalia Finzi (Milan Polytechnic).

Left: postcard designed by Alec Bartos, who also created the graphics for the exhibition.

Right: Special cancellation created by Renzo Turino, based on a design by Umberto Cavallaro



In the atrium of the Polytechnic campus, a show was set up, which included half a dozen astrophilately and space-themed exhibits on Valentina Tereshkova. The 10 panels of **WOMEN IN SPACE** were also presented for the first time, as a collective effort born from the collaboration of Umberto Cavallaro, Pietro Della Maddalena, Renzo Monateri, Annibale Rega and Lodovico Sacchi, with the decisive graphic contribution of Alec Bartos.



The philatelic-documentary exhibition (including the "open class" panels illustrating the missions of the 58 women who have flown into space over the past 50 years) was visited throughout the week by a large audience of students and scientists and academics who gathered at Turin for the 8th IAA Symposium (International Astronautics Academy) which took place that year at the Turin Polytechnic.

Also among the visitors was the **African-American astronaut Mae Jemison** who had flown on Shuttle STS-47.

The exhibition, continuously updated, was then presented in about fifteen cities in Italy and also abroad (Prague 2016).



During the event, the booklet No. 3 "*Lo Spazio in Rosa*" (Space in Pink), which briefly illustrated the profiles of the 58 women who had flown into space up to then., was presented.



A cover prepared for ASITAF by Chris Calle, and signed by Valentina Tereszkova

The event was sponsored by the Piedmont Region, the Piedmont Regional Council, the Turin Polytechnic, Thales Alenia Space and ALTEC.

As a representation prize, the President of the Republic assigned to ASITAF the prestigious medal of the Head of State.



Thanks to the help of Paolo Nespoli on his first long-term mission to the ISS in 2013 it was possible for every member of AS.IT.AF. to have a cover that had been sent, through the ATV-2 cargo, to the Space Station where it was canceled and signed by all the resident crew, and then returned to Earth on the last flight of the Shuttle STS-135. The envelope was presented in an elegant folder designed by Alec Bartos.